

## Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

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R 311723Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 919

UNCLAS EDINBURGH 274

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK

SUBJECT: DEVOLUTION DELUGE

REF: EDINBURGH A-16 OF OCTOBER 24, 1975

1. WHILE IT IS PROBABLY FOOLISH TO ATTEMPT CONGEN ANALYSIS OF THE PLETHORA OF WORDS OVERFLOWING NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE BORDER ON THE PERILS OF DEVOLUTION, THE CONSENSUS OF SCOTS WITH WHOM I COME IN CONTACT, PERSONALLY OR IN PRINT, APPEAR TO HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT:

- A) SCOTLAND IS OVERGOVERNED AND POORLY GOVERNED.
- B) LONDON AND THE EXPANDED REGIONAL-DISTRICT COUNCILS ARE GENERALLY TO BLAME.
- C) THE STRONGER THE FUTURE ASSEMBLY AND THE LESS THE CONTROL FROM WESTMINSTER AND THE COUNCILS, THE BETTER.
- D) THAT IS, SHORT OF SEPARATION.

2. A TWIST WHICH SURFACES INCREASINGLY IN EDITORIALS, LETTER TO EDITOR, CONVERSATIONS IS TO EMULATE BRITAIN' S FORMER COLONIES AND "MAKE LIKE" ALBERTA OR CALIFORNIA WITH A WRITTEN CONSTITUTION AND STRONGER STATES RIGHTS, C.F. JOHN MACKINTOSH IN OCT 27 SCOTSMAN. THE ARGUMENT IS THAT THE WHOLE IS EQUAL TO THE SUM OF THE PARTS, AND EACH PART OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WOULD DEVELOP A NEW DYNAMISM AND REALIZE ITS FULL POTENTIAL IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SUCH.

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3. FOR WHAT THEY ARE WORTH, LOCAL PREDICTIONS INCLUDE:

A) THE UKG IS GENERALLY DAMNED ON DEVOLUTION IF IT DOES, AND DAMNED IF IT DOESN'T: EVEN THE WORD "DEVOLUTION" IS SOMEWHAT SUSPECT HERE AS REFLECTING A TYPICALLY IMPERIAL/(PATERNALISTIC) APPROACH TO A PROVINCIAL (GUT) ISSUE.

B) ALL SCENARIOS WHETHER MAXI, MINI, FURTHER DEBATE, DELAY, OR REFERENDA POINT TO INCREASE IN SNP STRENGTH AND THREAT TO THE STATUS QUO, PARTICULARLY AS ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WORSEN.

C) THE "SICK MAN OF EUROPE" WILL GET SICKER UNTIL EVENTS CREATE LEADERSHIP WHICH CAN GALVANIZE ENGLISH, SCOTS, WELSH AND IRISH INTO THE TRADITIONALLY DYNAMIC BRITAIN OF TRULY UNITED, BUT MORE SEPARATE AND MORE EQUAL PARTS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REFORM, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1975EDINBU00274  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEVOLUTION DELUGE  
**TAGS:** PINT, PDEV, PGOV, UK  
**To:** LONDON  
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